

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4789
INFO AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: GDS
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REF: STATE X004485

FOL ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

1-A. SIR CHARLES COURT IS WELL-KNOWN AS ACTIVE LIBERAL PARTY FIGURE WHO IS STRONG OPPONENT OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY AT BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS. EVEN IF COURT SHOULD UTILIZE U.S. FORUM TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA, HIS REMARKS WOULD BE SEEN BY AUSTRALIANS AS EXPRESSING WELL-KNOWN AND LONG-HELD VIEWS HE HAS OFTEN EXPRESSED HERE. U.S.G. CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR VIEWS COURT MAY EXPRESS IN U.S., AND AUSTRALIANS GENERALLY WILL APPRECIATE THIS POINT. AT SAME TIME, COURT IS GOOD FRIEND OF U.S. AND IS UNLIKELY TO SEEK TO DAMAGE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH HE VALUES VERY HIGHLY.

1-B. SHOULD COURT PUBLICLY PROPOSE JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN U.S.G. AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE GUARDED, AS SUCH PROJECTS WOULD BE CERTAIN TO INCURE OPPOSITION OF FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT. WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT, WHILE WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE SUCH RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN PRIVATE U.S. FIRMS AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, U.S.G. AGENCIES COULD ONLY ENTER INTO RESEARCH PROJECTS IN AUSTRALIA WITH APPROVAL OF FEDERAL AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

GREEN

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